

(b) The committee may provide procedure for meeting by telephone, telegraph, or other means of communications, and any vote cast at such a meeting shall be confirmed promptly in writing: *Provided*, That if an assembled meeting of the committee is held all votes shall be cast in person.

**§ 953.25 Expenses and compensation.**

Committee members and alternates when acting on committee business shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties and in the exercise of committee powers under this subpart. In addition, they may receive reasonable compensation at a rate recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

[33 FR 8504, June 8, 1968]

**§ 953.26 Powers.**

The committee shall have the following powers:

- (a) To administer the provisions of this subpart in accordance with its terms;
- (b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this subpart;
- (c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violation of the provisions of this subpart; and
- (d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this subpart.

**§ 953.27 Duties.**

It shall be the duty of the committee:

- (a) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any producer or handler;
- (b) To keep minutes, books, and records which clearly reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and such minutes, books, and records shall be subject to examination at any time by the Secretary or his authorized agent or representative;
- (c) To investigate, from time to time, and to assemble data on the growing, harvesting, shipping, and marketing conditions with respect to potatoes, and to engage in such research and service activities which relate to the handling or marketing of potatoes as may be approved by the Secretary;

(d) To furnish to the Secretary such available information as he may request;

(e) To select subcommittees of committee members, a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, and to adopt such rules and regulations for conduct of its business as it may deem advisable;

(f) At the beginning of each fiscal year, to submit to the Secretary a budget of its expenses for such fiscal year, together with a report thereon;

(g) To cause the books of the committee to be audited by a competent accountant at least once each fiscal year and at such other time as the committee may deem necessary or as the Secretary may request. The report of such audit shall show the receipt and expenditure of funds collected pursuant to this part; a copy of each such report shall be furnished to the Secretary and a copy of each such report shall be made available at the principal office of the committee for inspection by producers and handlers;

(h) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary and to determine the salaries and define the duties of each such person; and

(i) To consult, cooperate and exchange information with other potato marketing committees and other individuals or agencies in connection with all proper committee activities and objectives under this subpart.

**§ 953.28 Obligations.**

Upon the removal or expiration of the term of office of any member of the committee, such member shall account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property and funds, together with all books and records, in his possession, to his successor in office or to a trustee designated by the Secretary and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in such successor or trustee full title to all the property, funds, and claims vested in such member pursuant to this section: *Provided*, That the provisions of this subpart shall apply to alternate members in possession of funds, property, books or records, or participate in the receipt or disbursement of funds.